



Swafford
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

May 7, 2008

F/SER46/RH:jk
225/389-0508

Ms. Claudia V. Hosch, Chief
Permits & TMDL Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Dear Ms. Hosch:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has received your letter dated April 24, 2008, transmitting the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for the LOOP LLC facility in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. The permit authorizes discharges from the deepwater port and associated facilities seaward of the outer boundary of the territorial seas in the Gulf of Mexico. EPA is proposing to re-issue this permit that would not authorize any new discharges over that previously permitted.

As indicated in your letter, EPA has determined that re-issuance of the permit would not adversely impact essential fish habitat (EFH) as designated under the auspices of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Based on our knowledge of the previous research that was used to support the issuance of the original permit, NMFS concurs that permit reissuance is not likely to constitute a significant adverse impact to EFH. As such, NMFS does not object to reissuance of the permit authorizing discharges from the LOOP LLC facility into outer continental shelf waters.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the permit reissuance.

Sincerely,

G Miles M. Croom
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

c:
FWS, Lafayette
EPA, Dallas ✓
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